

ILHIE Website Content

Frequently Asked Questions About EHR Connect and Electronic Health Information Exchange

What is the ILHIE?

The Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE) is a statewide, secure computer network for electronically sharing information about your health care to improve your care.

What are Electronic Health Records (EHRs)?

An Electronic Health Record (EHR) is an electronic version of your medical history that includes much of the same information also kept in your doctor's paper files. This information includes your name, medications, diagnoses, allergies, lab test results and contact information.

What is EHR Connect?

EHR Connect is a service of the ILHIE that allows your doctor, specialists, hospitals, clinics, health insurance provider and labs to share a summary of your health information over a secure computer network.

What are the Benefits of EHR Connect?

Allowing a health care provider to access your health information through EHR Connect can improve the quality of your care and perhaps save your life.

- EHR Connect makes you the most important member of your health care team. It gives you more control over your own health information and lets you play a bigger role in your overall health
- Your doctors have quick access to a more complete picture of your medical history to make better informed and safer decisions about your care
- You won't need to complete as many forms every time you visit another doctor
- Your medical information is stored in your health care provider's EHR system
- Having access to your health information might result in not having to take the same medical tests over again
- EHR Connect can lower the cost of health care

Where Does the Information in EHR Connect Come From?

Your health information comes from EHR Connect Users with information about your health care, such as your doctors, pharmacies, clinics, laboratories, hospitals therapists, or other health care providers.

Why Should my Health Information be Shared?

Currently, your health information may exist in many different locations. For instance if you visit a specialist, your primary care doctor may not have access to that information. Health care providers can make better decisions about your care when they have access to up-to-date health information such as medications, allergies, lab tests etc.

What Health Information Will be Shared through EHR Connect?

Health information shared through EHR Connect may include your diagnoses, test results, medications, allergies, and other treatment information.

Who Can Access my Health Information Using EHR Connect?

Attachment C

Only your doctor or authorized health care professionals involved in your health care, with correct information and passwords, can create, view, update or share your records. EHR Connect keeps track of who views your health information and when.

How Can Sharing my EHR Help in an Emergency?

When you need care, you might be far from home or unable to speak or remember important information such as the names of your medications or allergies. Participating in EHR Connect allows a health care provider to access your health information in an emergency that may save your life.

Can I Access my Electronic Medical Records?

By law you have the right to get a copy of your medical records from your health care provider. Contact your provider about how to request a copy of your record.

Can I Hold Back Some Parts of My Medical Records I do not Want to be Shared?

No, at this time EHR Connect cannot exclude specific information from your record from being shared.

Is my Shared Health Information Kept Confidential and Secure?

Yes. Federal and Illinois law protects your health information on paper and in electronic files. Your information is encrypted and sent over secure computer connections.

What About Patients who are Under 12 Years Old?

Parents and legal guardians of patients ages 11 and under can make the decision about whether the minor's health information can be shared through EHR Connect. Patients aged 12 and older must make their own decision about EHR Connect participation.

Will Mental Health Treatment Records be Shared through EHR Connect?

Yes. Recent important changes were made in Illinois law to facilitate electronic sharing of your health information through EHR Connect, including mental health information. Previously, you had to give consent to share your mental health information. While special consent is still needed for psychotherapy notes, if you do not want your other mental health information to be shared through EHR Connect, you should complete an ILHIE EHR Connect Opt-Out Form (see below).

Will HIV/AIDS Information, Genetic Testing, and Sexual Assault Health Records be Shared through EHR Connect?

No, not unless you consent. This information is considered specially protected health information and EHR Connect Users cannot share this information through EHR Connect without your permission unless required by law.

Will Alcohol or Drug Treatment Health Records Handled Differently?

It depends. Some alcohol and drug abuse health care providers cannot share your drug and alcohol abuse treatment health records under Federal and Illinois law and will not be shared through EHR Connect. Check with your provider or visit ([HYPERLINK to website](#)) for more information. With your permission, your health care providers can share some of this information through fax, U.S. mail or other specific HIPAA-compliant options.

How can I be Included in EHR Connect?

If you want your health records to be shared by EHR Connect Users, you do not need to do anything, unless your provider has removed you from participation because of Specially Protected Health Information in your record. For additional information see the instructions for participation.

What if I Have More Questions?

Attachment C

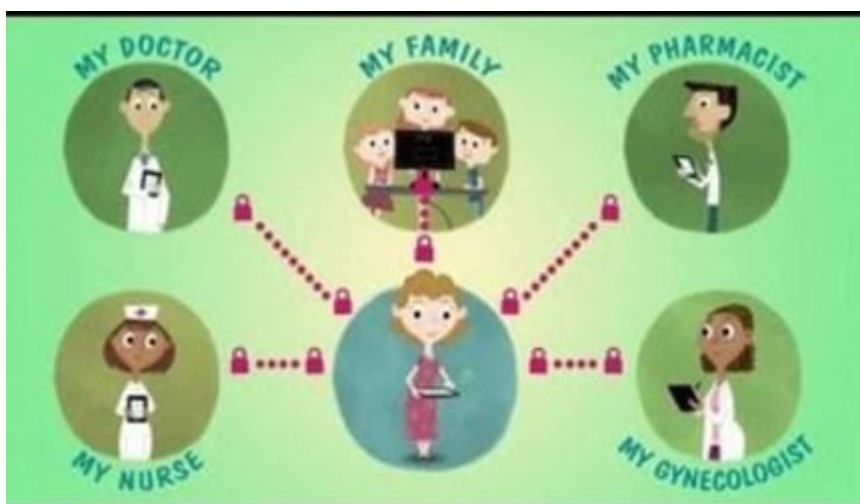
If you have more questions, please talk with your doctor or health care provider. They want you to have the information you need to make an educated choice about the way your health information is shared with other health care providers. You can also contact ILHIE at XXX for more information.

For More Information

Health IT for You Video

Health Information Technology, or Health IT for short, is upgrading our healthcare system for the 21st Century. Today's technology is converting the information in our paper records into an electronic format which allows you and your doctors to have access to your health information when and where it's needed. View this video and learn more about the benefits of health IT and how online, secure access to your health records can help ensure that you and your families get the best possible care.

- ["Health IT For You" - ONC YouTube Video, 3 Minute Version](#) | [1 Minute Version](#) [English]
- ["Health IT For You" - ONC YouTube Video, 3 Minute Version](#) | [1 Minute Version](#) [Español]



Knowledge is Power!

The ILHIE Health IT Consumer Education Toolkit was developed to provide you with simple, informative materials to better understand health IT and to be more proactive in your health and the health of your family.

Click below to access the Toolkit, and please feel free to share it with family and friends:

- [ILHIE Health IT Consumer Education Toolkit \(pdf\)](#) | [Versión Española](#)

Instructions for Participation (Opt-In) and Non-Participation (Opt-Out)

I Do Not Want to Participate in EHR Connect

Participation is voluntary. If you do not want your personal health information to be shared through EHR Connect, you have the right to restrict the sharing of your health information. However, placing this restriction on your health information means that your health records will not be available even in the case of a life threatening medical emergency.

How Do I Not Participate?

There are two ways to not participate (Opt-Out) of EHR Connect. Ask your health care provider for an EHR Connect Opt-Out Form or visit ([HYPERLINK to form](#)), then do one of the following:

1. Give the completed form to your health care provider. OR
2. Have the completed form signed by a notary public. Notarization protects you and assists the ILHIE Authority to verify your identity. Submit the notarized form by fax to 312-814-1468, scan and email the form to XXX@XXX.gov, or mail it to:
ILHIE Authority
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 4-750
Chicago, IL 60601.

It may take up to 3 business days from the ILHIE Authority's receipt of your form for election to take effect.

I Changed My Mind

I Previously Opted Out of EHR Connect

Now I do Want to Opt-In

Even if you previously submitted an EHR Connect Opt-Out Form, you can change your mind and decide to opt in to EHR Connect at any time. Ask your health care provider for an EHR Connect Opt-In Form to form and submit the completed form to your health care provider.

How Do I Participate?

There is one way to opt in to EHR Connect. Complete the EHR Connect Opt In Form. Ask your health care provider for an EHR Connect Opt-In form complete the form and give it to your provider.

Patient Privacy Rights

For more information about your privacy rights, please refer to your health care provider's **ILHIE Notice to Patients Regarding the Illinois Health Information Exchange's EHR Connect** ([HYPERLINK to Notice](#))

Opt-Out Form ([HYPERLINK](#))

Opt-In Form ([HYPERLINK](#))